

the IRS decides to snoop around and secretly investigate a citizen named Joe and his taxes. Right now, the government can go to Joe's email provider, demand his email records, and check on his finances that are stored in the cloud, all without Joe's knowledge or consent.

Government agencies have the authority to snoop around through private emails and photos as long as they are 180 days old, no warrant required. How is this possible? Well, it's called the outdated Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA. ECPA was passed back in 1986, the stone age of technology, when most Americans didn't even own a home computer, much less use email or store things in a cloud.

Today we have tweets, g-chats, texts, instagrams, emails and, yes, the cloud. The world of 1986 is gone, and it has been replaced by a world with free, instant, unlimited email storage, high-speed broadband, and cloud computing.

Americans keep many of their most personal possessions online indefinitely: family photographs, schoolwork, sensitive communications, financial records, business plans, personal calendars, and even weekend shopping lists.

In other words, Big Government can force a private company to turn over private information of a citizen, without their consent, without a warrant, and without that person's knowledge. This circumvents the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures of Americans' "persons, houses, papers, and personal effects."

Government should get a warrant if it has probable cause to believe a crime is being committed. Technology may have changed, but the Fourth Amendment still applies to the Internet.

The government can't tap our phones without a search warrant. It can't read our mail without a warrant or enter our homes or search our records that we keep in file cabinets. If a person stores information in a bank safety deposit box, the government must get a warrant to go through it.

But ECPA authorizes the government to read emails and social media messages or any property stored in the cloud, without a warrant and without evidence that someone is engaged in criminal activity.

Mr. Speaker, that's an invasion of privacy and an affront to the liberty of every American. Why should the law treat digital data stored in the cloud differently than papers stored in a file cabinet or property in a safety deposit box? It really is no different.

The law must be updated to protect every citizen's right of privacy from the government. Government's unrestricted authority to demand private information stored in the cloud will kill cloud computing by destroying confidence in U.S.-based services and driving businesses to other countries which actually have stronger privacy

protections for people who use the cloud. That's what the CEO of Data Foundry, a Texas-based data services provider, has warned. Companies will take their business to other shores that protect personal privacy.

Mr. Speaker, this is the United States. We were founded on the ideals of universal liberty and the right of privacy. That's why Representative ZOE LOFGREN and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to modernize the outdated ECPA. Our bill protects Internet users from intrusive and unwarranted Big Brother surveillance.

The bill requires the government to show probable cause and obtain a search warrant to access electronic communications, just as it would to tap somebody's phone or go through somebody's mail or look in their safety deposit box.

The government would need a warrant to compel service providers to produce documents stored in the cloud and to intercept or demand disclosure of personal location information generated by cell phones.

As technology continues to evolve and improve, Congress must ensure that the Fourth Amendment rights of citizens are protected, even today, with the Internet. The IRS and other government agencies should not be allowed to violate the Fourth Amendment right of privacy. Technology may change, but the Constitution does not.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

NINETY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. I rise today in recognition of the Armenian genocide.

Tomorrow, April 24, marks the 98th anniversary of the horrific Armenian genocide that took place approximately between 1915 and 1923. The citations, the history, and the atrocities are well documented. They have been recognized by the European parliament and historians around the world. Sadly, I believe the United States Congress has not gone on record, despite repeated attempts, in recognizing this horrific genocide—the first genocide that took place in the 20th century.

As we all know, history has a way of repeating itself, both for the good and for the bad. While the Armenian genocide was the first in the 20th century that was documented, we all know what took place later with the Holocaust and the attempted genocide of the Jewish people. And today, throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century, we see repeated attempts where genocide has been practiced in Africa and in other parts of the world.

It is not enough simply to condemn those actions, but rather as a people we must come together and acknowledge that there have been very, very dif-

ficult and sad times when man's inhumanity to their fellow man has taken place. What has occurred at the Holocaust has been documented in museums here in the United States and in Israel. The attempt to make that similar reflection on the Armenian genocide is still a work in progress.

This week, the Armenian communities throughout America will remind us once again that this injustice to mankind should not only be acknowledged and documented but should never, ever be forgotten. And that's what we will do tomorrow in recognizing the 98th anniversary of this Armenian genocide.

I grew up in a community in the San Joaquin Valley with many wonderful Armenian families. As a young boy, I learned about the history from our neighbors, my friends. And while, sadly, the Turkish Government today is still in denial as to the events that took place between 1915 and 1923, I would hope some day, just as the German Government and others have recognized the fact that there are parts of our history that we would just as soon forget or overlook, we know that if we recognize them, we have greater assurances that they will not repeat themselves.

That's why I rise today to recognize this very sad, sad event that took place in the 20th century. I think we reach out to all the Armenian communities not only in the United States but throughout the world and stand with them in realizing that their suffering, their pain, and the loss of some 1 million-plus Armenians has been all of our collective loss.

I want to close by saying that tomorrow we recognize the 98th anniversary. We continue to urge our fellow Members of Congress to recognize that we should go on record, in my view, just as we have gone on record on numerous other important events that have taken place in our Nation's history and in world history. I think tomorrow all Americans will stand with our Armenian Americans and Armenians throughout the world in recognizing that, in fact, this genocide did take place; and our thoughts and hearts and prayers go with those who have lost their lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.